

# The Coin Collectors' Journal

Vol. I.

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No. 1.



To those who collect coins and medals as a matter of recreation, study or profit, the following may be found interesting.

There are upon a low estimate ten thousand active collectors of coins and medals in United States and Canada whose Cabinets represent in intrinsic value amounts from a few hundred dollars to many thousands.

There are numerous collections which are valued above \$5000. While some reach as high as \$25,000 and even \$50,000.

Our principal cities have societies devoted exclusively to the science of Numismatics, embracing hundreds of members, while many others upon history, antiquity and kindred subjects devote time and space to coins.

The American Numismatic Ass'n is one of them which was started by a man of very fine career, Dr. Geo. F. Heath, M. D., Monroe, Mich. I wish success to the A. N. A., and hope it will embrace the largest number of reliable members on the globe. C. H. T., No. 39.

Two largest dealers are Scott Stamp & Coin Co., 12 E. 23rd St., New York City, and W. F. Greany, 827 Brannan St., San Francisco, Cal.

C. W. Stutesman, Bunker Hill, Ind., favors us with a copy of his Price List of Coins, Stamps and Relics, and complete

list of premiums paid on such. It is in pamphlet form, 30 pages. It is also an advertising medium exclusively for coins and stamps. It has a complete list of counterfeit U. S. Treasury and National Bank Notes and how to detect them.

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We extend our hand to the *Coin & Stamp* and give it a very cordial greeting as a magnificent collector's paper. We wish it success.

Special Notice.—Brother Collectors! I have published this little Journal to help you and help myself into the collectors' world, and to get more acquainted with its collectors. I have come to stay and hope to make a success, with your help. So please send in your ads. and subs. and I think I can give you a paper that will please you, for an amateur collector, as I am. Please do not discourage me.

Yours numismatically, PUBLISHER.

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## THE 1804 DOLLAR.

### A Flood of Light is thrown on the History of this Rare Coin.

The writer of this article saw the following item of news in "The Republican" several days since. He has seen the same or a similar article in about one hundred newspapers published all over the United States within a few weeks. It first originated in a paper at St. Paul, Minn. Here follows said item:

"The missing dollar of 1804 is said to have turned up. In that year but four silver dollars were coined. The whereabouts of three of these have long been known to coin collectors, but the fourth has been missing. Dr. Edward Walthier of St. Paul, Minn., is now advertised to have found the long lost piece in the possession of an aged Norwegian living in the southern part of the state, who had kept the piece in the depths of a stocking for many years. The doctor paid \$150 for the dollar. It is quoted in coin catalogues at \$800."

There is about as much false information published to the world in the above as is possible in so few lines. It is time some one who knows, should correct these statements and let the public know the facts about the celebrated 1804 dollar. It is true there is some difficulty in obtaining the facts, and some obscurity as the number of these dollars that have been minted. The article above says that only four of the dollars were struck in that year. There were none struck. The die was undoubtedly made for a dollar of 1804, but none were issued.

The die for the half dollar of the same year was made, but who ever saw a half dollar of 1804? We know the die was manufactured, for the next year an 1805 half dollar was struck which plainly shows the four under the five. To go back to the 1804 dollar: I have a record of ten of these dollars of undoubted genuineness, and names of the owners and place of residence can be furnished. So much for the story published above. Perhaps the readers of this paper would like some of the facts connected with the issue of this dollar. It was probably first struck about 1840.

The mint at Philadelphia has one of the first, and a Mr. Stickney, of Salem, Mass., had influence enough to have one struck for his collection. He gave the mint in exchange rare and valuable colonial coins. Mr. Stickney is now between 80 and 90 years old, and the probability is strong that his specimens may be soon on the market. Other well known collectors also obtained the dollar for their cabinets. Later some of the mint workmen, unbeknown to the authorities, so it is said, surreptitiously struck off a few more; how many is not certainly known. When this came to the ears of the authorities strenuous efforts were made to reach and call them in. A few were found, but the problem still remains as to how many may yet come to light. The original dies were destroyed in 1869. One dollar was found in 1884 in Germany and was sold the next year for \$1,000.

Prices for this dollar have ranged all the way from \$400 to \$1,000. No counterfeit dies of the 1804 dollar were ever made, but many electrotypes and altered dates are in the hands of collectors and dealers of old coins. The writer has examined probably a hundred of these spurious dollars. Many collectors know that their specimens are not genuine, but they allow their friends, who are not posted, to believe they are genuine. The late John T. Raymond was led to purchase one of this kind some years ago in Chicago, for which he paid \$300. A short time since when his collection was sold, it brought \$5.60, and this because it had once belonged to the famous actor, and not because it was worth anything like that sum.

If the truth could be known, the strong probability is that the dollar found by Dr. Edward Walthier, of St. Paul, in the hands of the "aged Norwegian" would belong to the same category as the Raymond dollar. Two years ago in the city of Meriden, a showman offered for my inspection and purchase an 1804 dollar. He was not sure of its genuineness, but knew if it was it possessed great value. The writer knew at once it was an altered date—probably from an 1801 dollar. It was well calculated to deceive.

A few months later this identical dollar was found in the hand of a man in Burlington, Vt. His statement was that he found it in Montreal nearly forty years ago, and he had been the owner ever since.

Nothing but "impecuniosity" would allow him to part with the dollar. A syndicate was being formed to purchase it on speculation, but one gentleman would not consummate the bargain till the dollar had

been submitted to my inspection. Being a personal friend, the gentleman had to be told all about the coin and its history.

The syndicate went to pieces. It is perhaps needless to say that the obscurity hanging about this celebrated dollar, and the general desire of the public to be informed of the facts connected therewith, is all the apology necessary for writing this article. F. G. M. in Meriden, Conn., "Republican."



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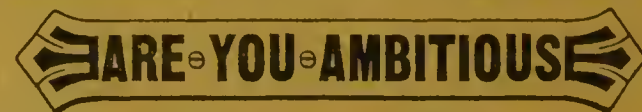
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